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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/046,935	01/15/2002	Yuqiu Jiang	210121.527C1	4541
500	7590	10/19/2004	EXAMINER	
SEED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP PLLC 701 FIFTH AVE SUITE 6300 SEATTLE, WA 98104-7092			VANDERVEGT, FRANCOIS P	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1644		

DATE MAILED: 10/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/046,935	JIANG ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	F. Pierre VanderVegt	1644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 July 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-11 and 13-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 05272002.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. 10122004.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

The Examiner in charge of your application in the USPTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to F. Pierre VanderVegt, Ph.D. in Art Unit 1644.

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial Number 09/878,178, which claims the benefit of the filing date of provisional applications 60/270,216 and 60,210,899.

Claims 1-17 are currently pending.

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group 10, claim 12 as drawn to a method of stimulating an immune response in a patient comprising administering a polypeptide or fusion protein comprising a polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2234, in the reply filed on July 30, 2004 and affirmed in the telephonic interview held October 12, 2004 is acknowledged.

Claims 1-11 and 13-17 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on July 30, 2004 and affirmed in the telephonic interview held October 12, 2004.

Accordingly, **claim 12 is the subject of examination** in the present Office Action, as it pertains to a method of stimulating an immune response in a patient comprising administering a polypeptide or fusion protein comprising a polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2234.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. This is a WRITTEN DESCRIPTION rejection.

The claim is drawn to stimulating an immune response in a subject with a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide sequence comprising at least 70% or 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ

Art Unit: 1644

ID NO: 2234. The specification discloses a single working example of a polynucleotide sequence has at least 70 or 90% identity to SEQ ID NO: 2234; namely, the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 2234. However, the genus of polypeptides which are 90% identical to the 371 amino acid residue sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2234, allowing up to 37 amino acid residues to remain undefined over the full length of the encoded polypeptide, encompasses at least 37^{20} or 2.31×10^{31} different polypeptide molecules. The present disclosure falls short of the requirement to disclose an adequate number of species to claim such a broad genus.

The Guidelines for the Examination of Patent Applications Under the 35 U.S.C. 112, ¶ 1 "Written Description" Requirement make clear that the written description requirement for a claimed genus may be satisfied through sufficient description of a representative number of species by actual reduction to practice, reduction to drawings, or by disclosure of relevant, identifying characteristics, i.e., structure or other physical and or chemical properties, by functional characteristics coupled with a known or disclosed correlation between function and structure, or by a combination of such identifying characteristics, sufficient to show the applicant was in possession of the genus (Federal Register, Vol. 66, No. 4, pages 1099-1111, Friday January 5, 2001, see especially page 1106 3rd column).

Regarding the instant claim limitations, the specification does not appear to provide an adequate written description for the following reasons:

The claims are drawn a genus of polypeptide molecules irrespective of the animal species from which they are derived and require only that the instant polypeptide molecules be able to stimulate an immune response. This is neither a structural nor a functional limitation on the polypeptide of the claimed method, as an immune response can be raised to any polypeptide sequence and an immune response is a function of the immune system of the host, not of the polypeptide itself. In the absence some structural basis for that function that must be maintained by the members of the genus, the claimed invention is not described in such a way as to reasonably convey to one of ordinary skill in the art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the invention. See Regents of the University of California v. Eli Lilly & Co., 119F3d 1559, 1569, 43 USPQ2d 1398, 1406 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

Consequently, Applicant was not in possession of the instant claimed invention. See Regents of the University of California v. Eli Lilly and Co. 119 F.3d 1559, 43 USPQ2d 1398 (Fed. Cir. 1997). Adequate written description of genetic material "requires a precise definition, such as by structure, formula, chemical name, or physical properties,' not a mere wish or plan for obtaining the claimed chemical invention." Id. 43 USPQ2d at 1404 (quoting Fiers, 984 F.2d at 1171, 25 USPQ2d at 1606). The disclosure must allow one skilled in the art to visualize or recognize the identity of the subject matter of the claim. Id. 43 USPQ2d at 1406. A description of what the genetic material does, rather than of what it is, does not suffice. Id.

Art Unit: 1644

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Pre-grant Publication No. US20020052308A1 (published May 2002; A on form PTO-892), which claims priority to March 12, 1999.

The '308 pre-grant publication teaches a deduced protein sequence (SEQ ID NO: 1165) that is 98.11% identical to a polypeptide encoded by instant SEQ ID NO: 2234. The '308 pre-grant publication teaches administration of the polypeptide to a mammalian subject for treating a medical condition (claim 17 in particular), including the stimulation of an immune response (paragraph [0337] in particular). The prior art teaching clearly anticipates the claimed invention.

Conclusion

4. No claim is allowed.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to F. Pierre VanderVegt whose telephone number is (571) 272-0852. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 6:30-4:00; Alternate Fridays 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on (571) 272-0841. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

F. Pierre VanderVegt, Ph.D.

Art Unit: 1644

Patent Examiner
October 12, 2004

Pat J. Nolan
PATRICK J. NOLAN, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER

10/12/04